

# The Comprehensive Course for Accessing 2020 Census Redistricting Data

Explore and learn the different methods to access P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

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U.S. Census Bureau

[Census.gov/academy](https://www.census.gov/academy)



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Access interface. The title bar indicates the file is "2020PL\_SummaryFile\_Shell : Database- H:\CENSUS ACADEMY..." and the user is "Alexandra S Barker (CENSUS...)". The ribbon includes tabs for File, Home, Create, External Data, Database Tools, and Help. The "Home" tab is active, showing options for View, Paste, Filter, Sort & Filter, Refresh, Save, Delete, and Find. The "All Access Objects" pane on the left shows a list of tables and queries. The "Example\_Query\_DataSegment1 Blocks" table is selected, displaying a datasheet view with columns: SUMLEV, GEOCODE, GEOID, NAME, and BASE. The table contains 26 rows of data, showing census tracts and blocks for the year 2020. The status bar at the bottom indicates "Record: 1 of 12600" and "No Filter".

| SUMLEV | GEOCODE       | GEOID         | NAME       | BASE |
|--------|---------------|---------------|------------|------|
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1000 | 1000 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1001 | 1001 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1002 | 1002 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1003 | 1003 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1004 | 1004 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1005 | 1005 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1006 | 1006 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1007 | 1007 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1008 | 1008 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1009 | 1009 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1010 | 1010 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1011 | 1011 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1012 | 1012 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1013 | 1013 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1014 | 1014 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1015 | 1015 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1016 | 1016 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1017 | 1017 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1018 | 1018 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1019 | 1019 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1020 | 1020 |
| 750    | 4400700010110 | 7500000US4400 | Block 1021 | 1021 |
| 750    | 4400700010120 | 7500000US4400 | Block 2000 | 2000 |
| 750    | 4400700010120 | 7500000US4400 | Block 2001 | 2001 |
| 750    | 4400700010120 | 7500000US4400 | Block 2002 | 2002 |

Lesson 2  
Understanding the Data

Types of Available Data: Geographies and  
Subjects/Topics

Other Circumstances for Which the Data Could  
be Used Outside of the Purposes of Redistricting

# What Are the P.L. 94-171 Data Files?

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- ✓ Public Law (PL) 94-171, enacted in 1975, directs the Census Bureau to make special preparations to provide redistricting data needed by the states.
- ✓ The PL 94-171 data were derived from questions asked on the 2020 Census questionnaire.
- ✓ For each area reported, the file provides a count of all persons and of persons 18 years of age and older.
- ✓ The data files provide population and housing tabulations (Group Quarters

# What Topics Are Available

## Tables:

P= Population

H= Housing

- P1. Race
- P2. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race
- P3. Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P4. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P5. Group Quarters Population by Major Group Quarters Type
- H1. Occupancy Status

White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race

Institutionalized (correctional facilities for adults, juvenile facilities, nursing facilities, and other institutional facilities)

Noninstitutionalized (college/university housing, military quarters, and other noninstitutional facilities)

Total housing unit counts  
Occupied housing units  
Vacant housing units



# Administrative Geographies, What's the Difference?

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## Congressional Districts

- The 435 areas from which members are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

## State Legislative Districts (SLD's)

- The areas from which members are elected to state legislatures. The Census Bureau first reported data for SLDs as part of the 2000 Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data File

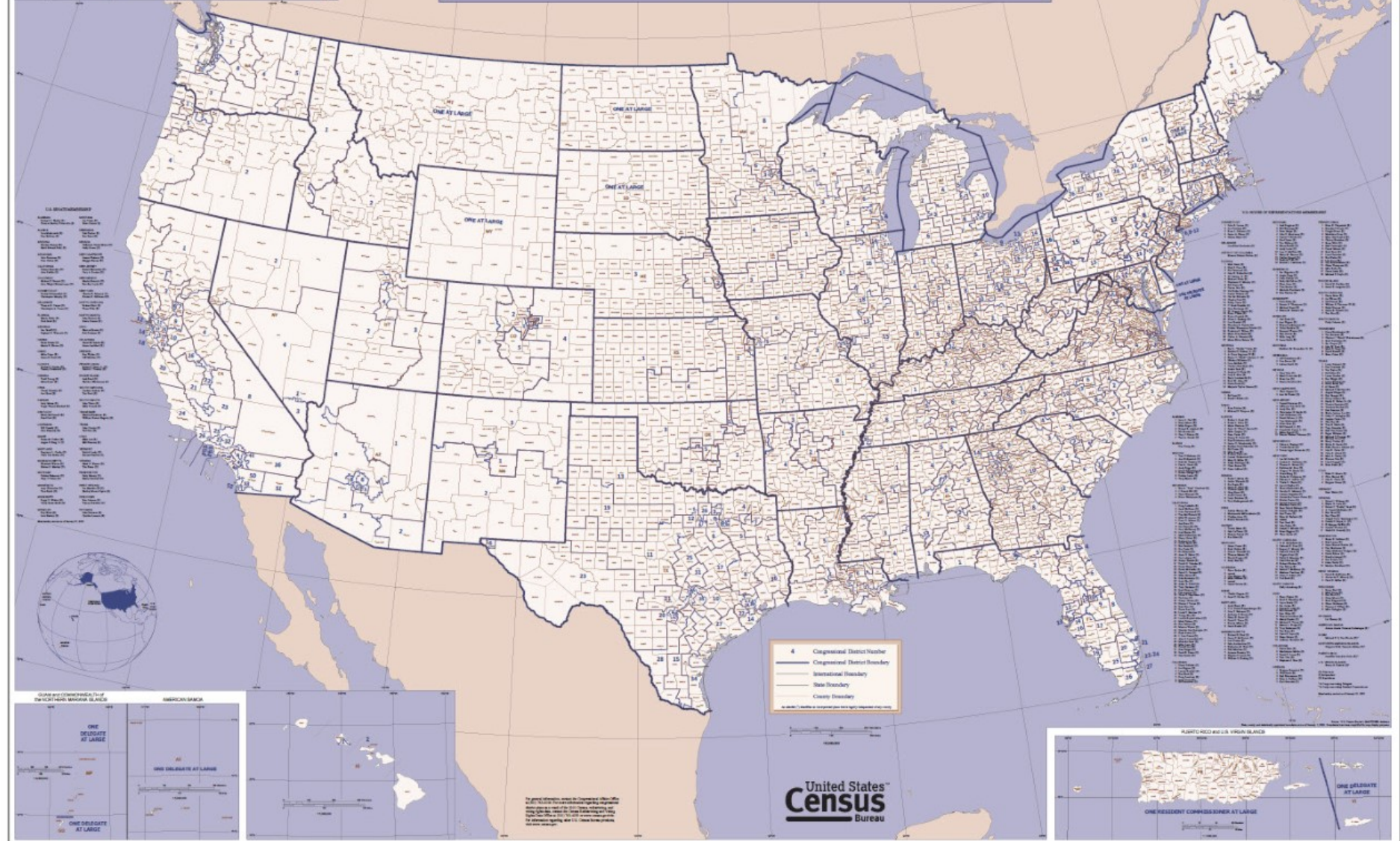
## Voting District (VTD's)

- Refers to the generic name for geographic entities, such as precincts, wards, and election districts, established by state governments for the purpose of conducting elections



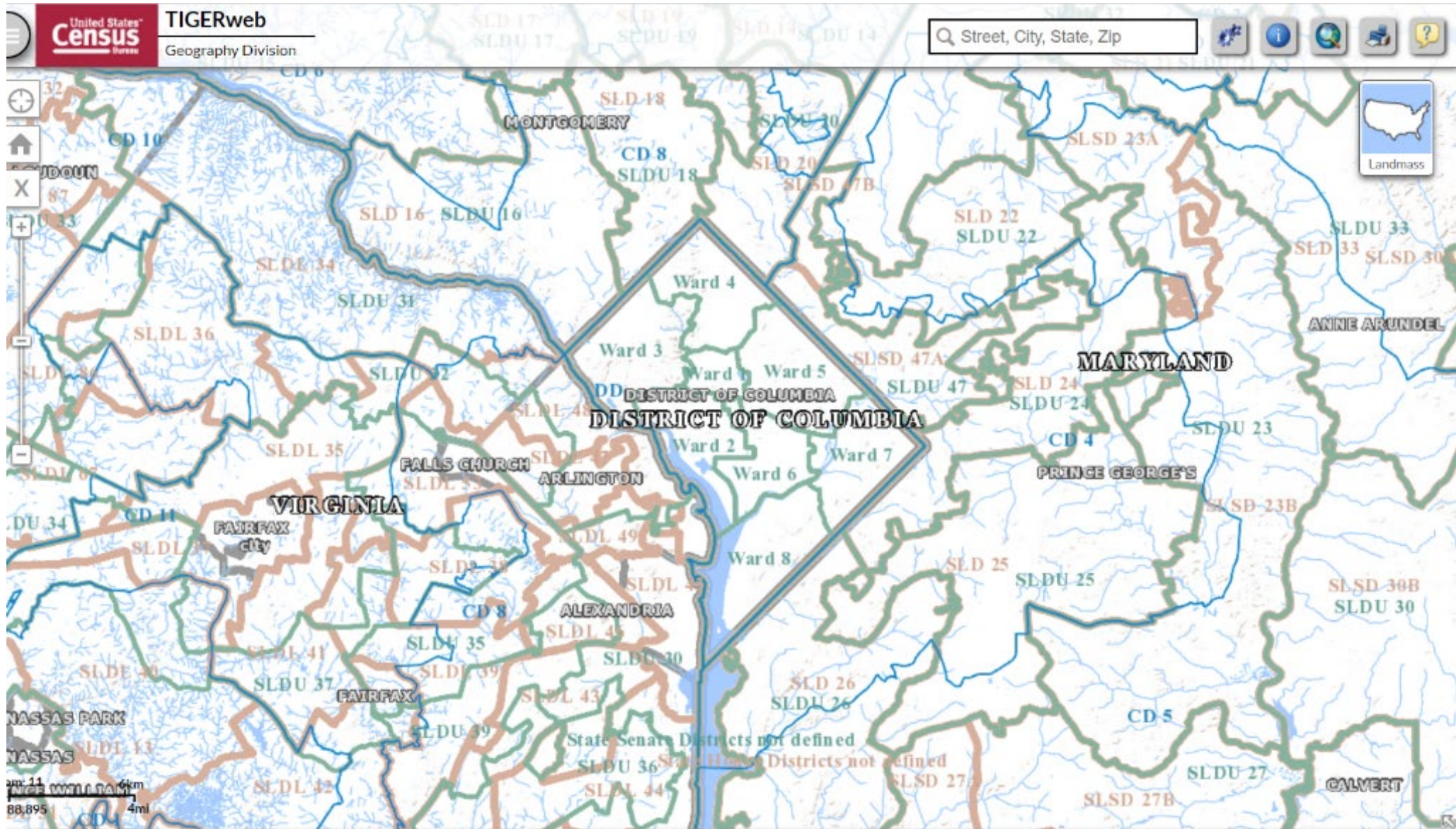
# Congressional Districts of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States

January 2021 - 2023

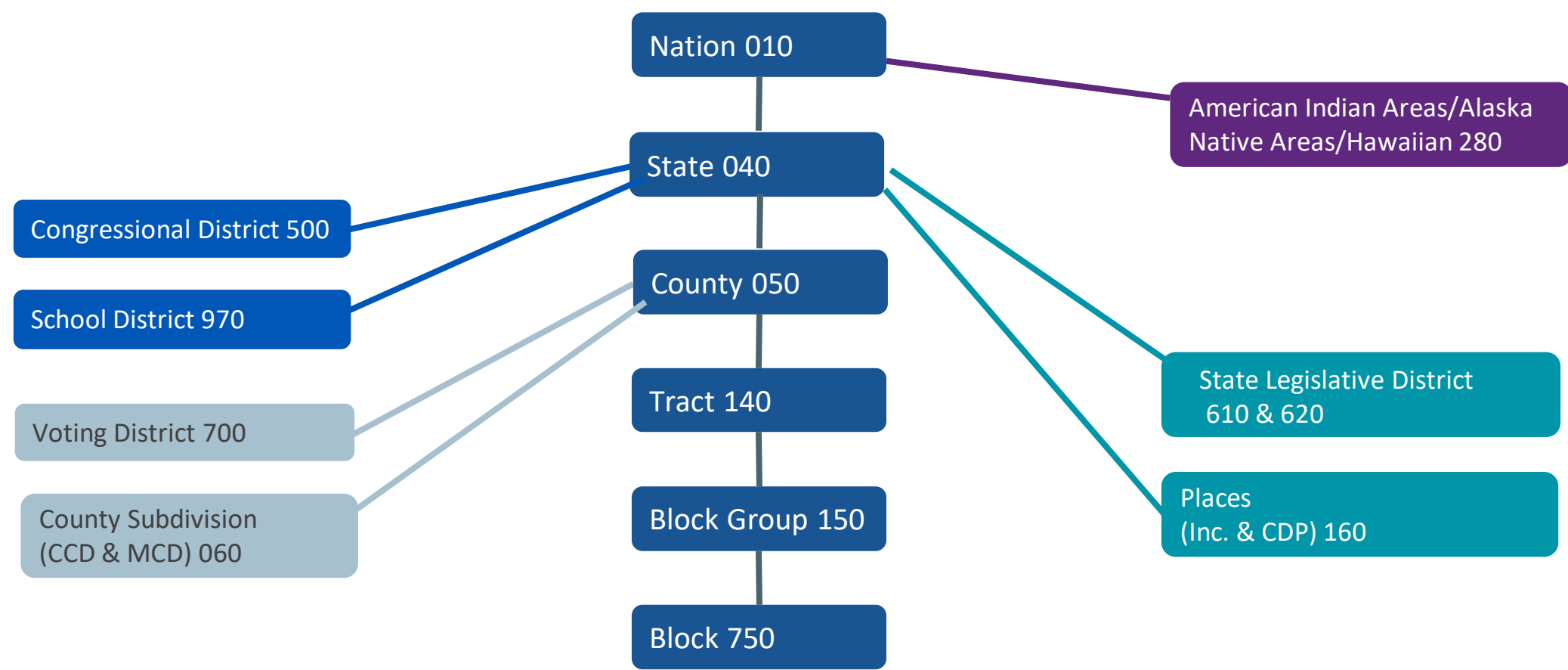




# Administrative Geographies: Congressional Districts and State Legislative Districts



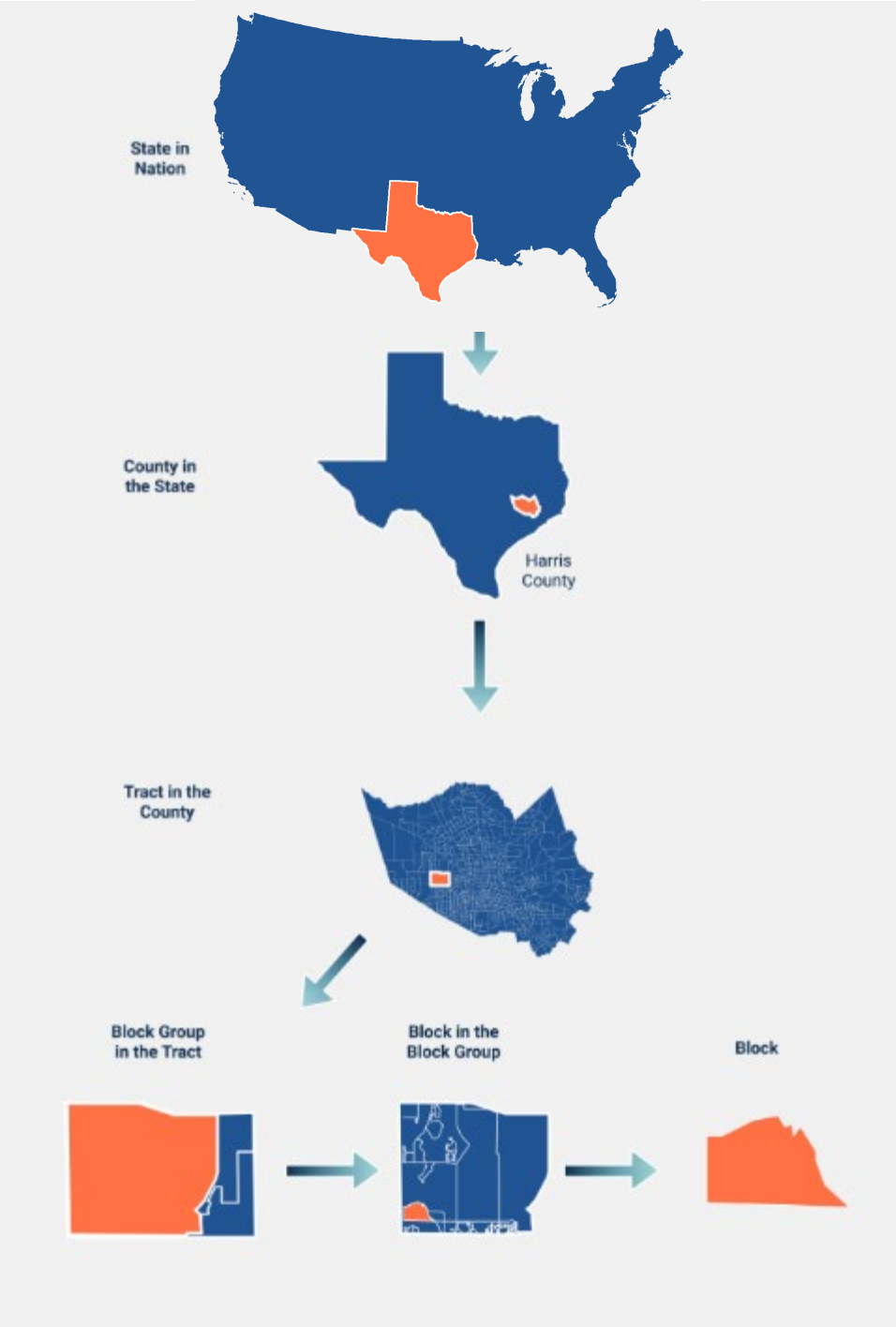
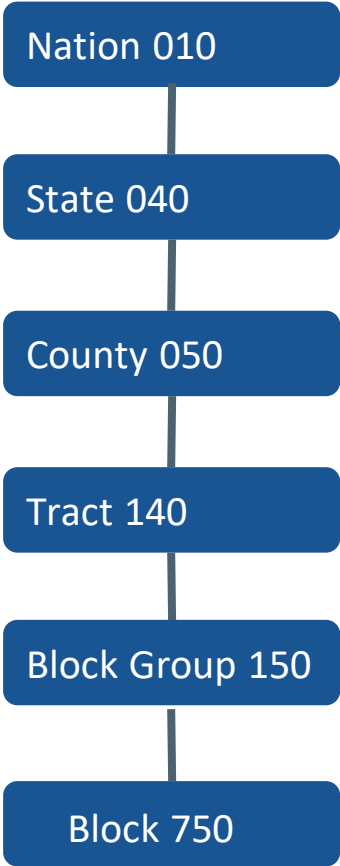
# What Areas Are P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Available?





# Hierarchy of Census Geography

## From Nation to Block



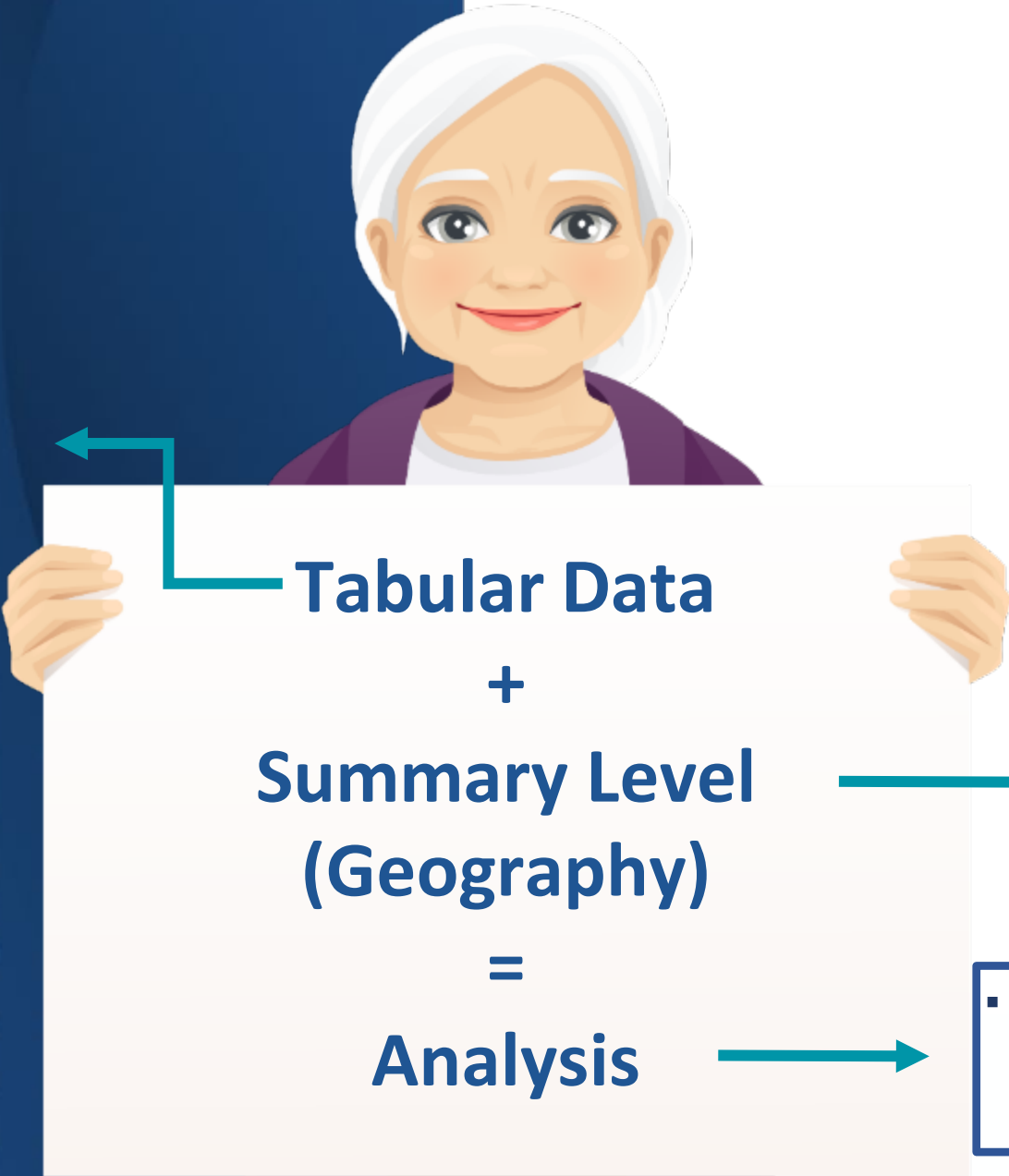
# 2020 Census (P.L. 94-171) Geographic Products

- TIGER/Line Shapefiles
- Maps (.pdf format)
- Block Assignment Files (BAFs)  
BAFs are meant to be used in conjunction with the NLTs
- Name Look-up Tables (NLTs)  
NLTs are meant to be used in conjunction with the BAFs
- 2010 to 2020 Tabulation Block Crosswalk Table



# Types of Data

- P1. Race
- P2. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race
- P3. Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P4. Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- P5. Group Quarters Population by Major Group Quarters Type
- H1. Occupancy Status



**Tabular Data**  
+  
**Summary Level  
(Geography)**  
=  
**Analysis**

- State
- Congressional district
- State legislative district
- American Indian area
- County
- City
- Town
- Census Tract
- Census Block Group
- Census Block
- Voting District

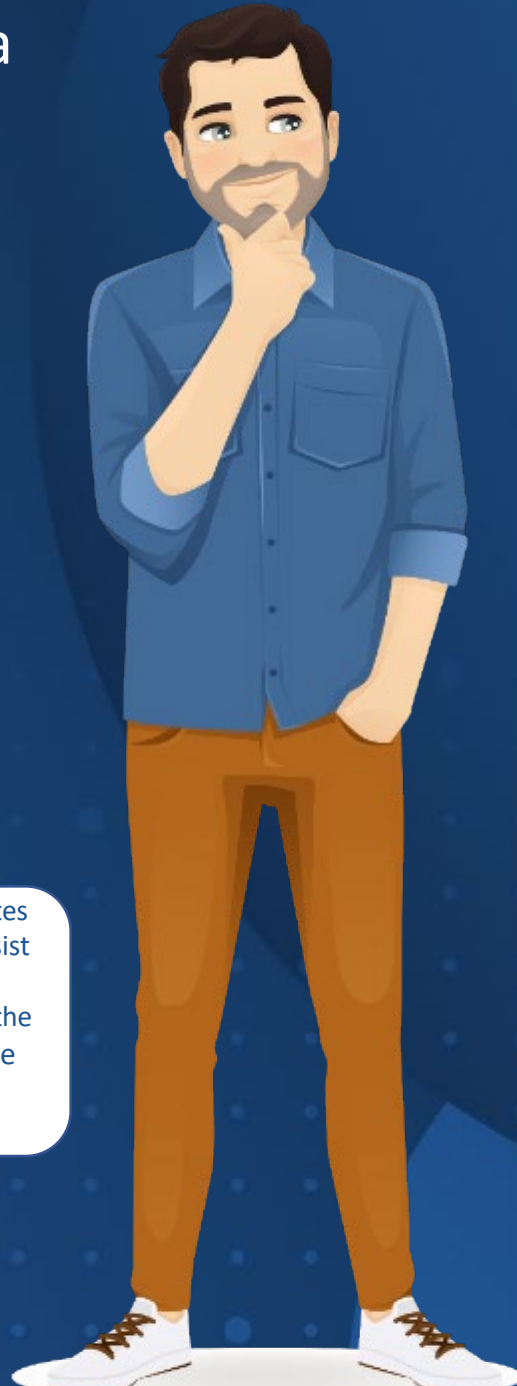
- Race Populations (White, Black, Asian, etc.) in State legislative districts



# Uses of Redistricting Data

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{The ideal district} \\ \text{population number} \\ = \\ \text{state population} \\ \div \\ \text{number of districts} \end{array}$$

The U.S. Census Bureau Redistricting Data Program operates in a non-partisan manner. The Census Bureau does not assist states with the redrawing of their legislative district boundaries. The Census Bureau provides the data used in the delineation of district boundaries. States are responsible for delineating and adopting their own redistricting plans.



## Federal and State

- ✓ One person one vote principle
- ✓ Compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- ✓ There is variability in redistricting laws and procedure across states

## Other Uses

- ✓ Comparison to other data (2010 to 2020, voting data)
- ✓ Benchmark for annual population estimates and projections
- ✓ Grant writing
- ✓ Research

## Lesson 2 Recap

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